

SUBJECT IDEA (Sacred Bond of Greek Officers)

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1. IDEA (Ieros Deamos Ellenon Axiomatikon--Sacred Bond of Greek Officers) was founded immediately following the liberation, in late 1944. During December 1944 its activities had not developed to a very great extent. However, following the December revolution, the founders of the organization decided to make every effort to recruit new members and established the following Administrative Committee consisting of the following persons:

- (a) Captain (Artillery) Konstantinos Zacharakis, General Secretary, directing internal propaganda and organization.
- (b) Captain (Artillery) Argyrios Mardas, directing the section dealing with political contacts and acquisition of informants.
- (c) Captain (Engineers) Michael Kiourtsoglou, responsible for external (outside the organization) propaganda and press publicity including articles on military matters.
- (d) Captain (Infantry) Dimitrios Aletras, responsible for financial matters, general organization and liaison.
- (e) Captain (Infantry) Konstantinos Zacharakis, member of the Sacred Company and aide to Papandreou during the Government of National Unity. Responsible for the recruitment of new members among the Sacred Company.
- (f) Captain (Artillery) Nikolaos Assimakopoulos of the Rimini Brigade, responsible for recruitment of new members among the Rimini Brigade.

2. About six months following the establishment of the organization, the above Administrative Council withdrew individually and was replaced by others in accordance with the constitution of the organization for the maintenance of security. This was also done to impress upon the membership that the organization did not favor individual opportunism but was an effort on the part of some elements of the Army to establish a truly patriotic non-political organization.

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3. Following the campaign for recruiting new members, considerable success had been achieved. In spite of careful selective processes, the organization acquired several hundred members. Political sentiments of new members were not taken into consideration excepting for sentiments deemed anti-patriotic in a broad sense. Each member may express his political views but may not interpose these views in opposition to policy decisions of the organization. For example, during the plebiscite Captain Tsichlis and Major Kranias insisted that IDEA should declare itself in favor of the monarchy in order to influence its membership in that direction. This proposal was categorically rejected by the governing council which included several very Royalist officers. When Tsichlis and Kranias refused, they were expelled. They then set up a separate group known as "Ethniki Exormisis" (National Campaign) which was soon abandoned when IDEA refused to cooperate with it.
4. The membership of IDEA is organized into groups called Bonds ("desmos"). The higher governing council, located in Athens, is called the Governing Bond and consists of approximately 5 to 7 members and a small staff. The next lower echelon is the Guard Bond found in every large headquarters unit. Finally there are Bonds found in smaller army units which maintain direct liaison with the Guard Bonds.
5. To date, there have been very few occasions on which the organization has displayed its strength. One of these occurred during the days when the Plastiras Government was in crisis. At that time, Plastiras was disposed to resort to force to ignore a political solution. Various military personalities tried to convince smaller unit officers that they should support Plastiras. These officers were in large measure members of IDEA and they refused to cooperate, following a policy decision of the organization.
6. The greatest reaction and opposition to the aims and objectives of IDEA comes from the officer organization called RAN which, in contrast to IDEA, seeks to locate all its officers in strategic central positions. The aims and objectives of RAN are described as being completely opposite to IDEA, and General Ventiris, having heard of IDEA, is doing everything possible to break it up. The extensive movement of officers of IDEA due to the operations which are now taking place has caused a certain dislocation in the organization, and recruitment of new members has suffered. Other difficulties, resulting in the recent discontinuance of a weekly periodical, Greek Outlook, are financial. Another drawback has been the relative lack of initiative which some of the governing members have displayed and which has reduced the main objectives of IDEA to considerations of purely military matters.
7. The most recent governing council was composed of the members named below, some of whom are now away from Athens on field duty or were purposely sent away from Athens because their presence was deemed inimical to RAN:
 - (a) Colonel Solon Ghikas. This officer participated in the governing council as chief of the Executive Committee and had extensive powers in this capacity. He is now serving as Greek Military Attache in Washington. (It is not made clear whether this was done in order to remove Ghikas from Athens or not, although the post of Greek Military Attache in Washington is considered quite a plum.)

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- (b) Lt. Col. Papathanassiades. This officer was chief of the operations office of the First Army Corps and now holds the same position in the Army of northern Greece under the command of General Giatzis.
 - (c) Lt. Col. Tzanetis. Formerly of the Greek General Staff and planner of the special mountain units which have been created for the present Greek Army operations, he is now a Divisional Chief of Staff.
 - (d) Major Karagiannis. On duty at the Greek Officers School, he is the only member of the governing council who is still in Athens.
 - (e) Major Alevras. Formerly Chief of the Cryptographic Service of the Greek General Staff, he was recently killed in operations.
8. An attempt was made recently to help meet financial requirements by placing the matter in the hands of Major Karabotsos, who is presently in the United States for treatment of war wounds, and Colonel Ghikas. No results have as yet been noted in connection with this effort.
9. On 4 June 1947, the Governing Bond of IDEA issued a list of instructions covering the duties of the Army Corps Bond. Following is a translation of these instructions.
- 1. The Army Corps Bond will be organized into five sections:
 - a. Secretariat
 - b. Personnel
 - c. Liaison
 - d. Information and Enlightenment
 - e. Finance
 - 2. The Secretariat will coordinate the efforts of the other sections. It will call meetings of the Army Corps Bond and will conduct discussions on previously specified agenda.
 - 3. The Personnel Section will:
 - a. Compile a list of IDEA members presently serving in the Army Corps (presumably the First Corps located in Athens).
 - b. Designate a member to be responsible for each of the British of the Athens Guard.
 - c. Supervise the activities of the responsables.
 - d. Recruit worthy members for IDEA.
 - e. Organize a Governing Bond in each of the major units in Athens and a smaller Governing Bond in the smaller units in Athens.

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- f. Appoint a "responsible" for these units.
 - g. Ensure that no written records are kept other than a list of members to be held at the headquarters of the Army Corps Bond.
 - h. Handle transfer of members to other Bonds.
4. The Liaison Section is the most important section of IDEA, maintaining constant contact between the various units. The Liaison Section will also perform the following functions:
- a. Protection of security.
 - b. Designation of places of contact and meeting places.
 - c. Every member must be utilized to take advantage of movements of members who travel on official business.
5. Information and Enlightenment. The "responsible" of every unit must prepare a periodic bulletin covering information of interest to IDEA. Matters of interest to IDEA are the following:

The actions of responsible political and military personalities, the actions of IDEA members and of all other army officers, regular military matters, the actions and movements of elements hostile to IDEA, the actions of foreign enemy and allied military, economic, political or diplomatic personalities, public opinion, opinions of the membership, etc. General information will not be of an urgent nature. In the event that it is, it will be transmitted promptly by first available means. Each member must become accustomed to being an informant.

Propaganda will be of two kinds: 1. Internal, for dissemination within the organization, and 2. External, for non-members. General lines will be laid down by the Governing Bond which will be the only section to issue written material. The material not classified as secret may be disseminated more broadly, but only orally. When written material has served its purpose it will be burned.

Members will look after the dissemination of each written bulletin or its oral dissemination to all members of the organization. Members will use initiative in spreading propaganda wherever they deem proper but will not depart from the general policy. Written bulletins will be burned but memoranda will be kept of their destruction. Notes will be kept and reports made on attitudes expressed by army colleagues. Close contact will be maintained between the responsables of the various units.

6. Finance. For reasons of simplicity the coupon system (Note: same as used by KKE), or special contributions or some similar simple method of collection will be employed for the present. Money can be solicited from units so long as security is not violated. All monies collected will be concentrated in the Army Corps Bond which will maintain accounts and which will also have complete initiative in the handling of the monies. Monies not of immediate necessity to the Army Corp Bond will be forwarded to the Governing Bond. Between two members of the organization who are in like economic circumstances, the one who believes most in the organization will contribute the most.

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7. All knowledge of IDEA must be denied under interrogation.
10. The following notes have been extracted from certain bulletins published by IDEA:
 - a. So long as the government of the country is chosen by popular will, IDEA will attempt to strengthen the National Army and follow current happenings closely in order to help the country combat the dangers confronting it.
 - b. IDEA will attempt to protect the army from opportunists and opportunistic organizations with political aims. IDEA will vigorously oppose Greece's present enemy, Communism and it will take action against those who profiteer and ignore the misery which is leading the Greek people into the trap set by Greece's enemy.
 - c. Our foreign friends, under the leadership of President Truman, have given us courage and have proved to us that we are not alone. We will assist them with information and we will make sincere and impartial recommendations.
 - d. We will point out to the political leadership of the Nation the errors and omissions which delay the destruction of Greece's internal enemy.

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